



# Literally Speaking



Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy 1000 Avocado Ave, Newport Beach, CA 92660 (949) 717-3874

Feb/Mar 2011

A Publication of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy, a service of the Newport Beach Public Library

## Literally Speaking Goes Bi-Monthly

Every new year brings about changes and for Literacy Services that is also the case. 2011 is the year our newsletter will begin being published every other month, going from four issues per year to six.

With this change comes a new column to appear three times a year, "Snapshot", where we will profile a different board member, tutor, learner or volunteer and learn how the program touches their life.

We also wish to remind everyone about our regular column, "Learner's Corner". It features a story or article written by one of our learners. If you would like to submit your writing — between 450 and 600 words — please leave a copy at the literacy office.

We look forward to working with all of you and wish you continued success in the program for 2011!

## Gift of Literacy

On **April 8, 2011**, Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy will hold its annual fundraising luncheon featuring guest author, **Nicole Mones**.

Her most recent book, *The Last Chinese Chef* (a current Literacy Services Book Club selection), draws on her 18 years of experience living in China.

The literacy program is very excited to have this accomplished writer as guest speaker and we hope you will join us at what promises to be an interesting event.

You will also be able to participate in the silent auction or purchase tickets for one of several gift baskets to be raffled off.

The luncheon is Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy's main fundraising event of the year, so we are counting on all of you to spread the word (and purchase *your* ticket!)

For more information, contact the literacy office by telephone or email.



## News For You Online

By now, many of you may have heard that, thanks to the generous corporate donations we received at the end of 2010, you will now have full access to **News For You Online**, the weekly paper published by *New Readers Press*.

**News For You** is a useful learning tool for both tutors and learners to help improve reading skills. The special audio feature also allows readers to work on pronunciation as well. Plus, you will be able to work on the crossword puzzle directly on the internet.

If you wish to read the publication online please contact Literacy Services and they will provide you with the password needed to access the website.

## NewsforYouOnline.com

### Learner Accomplishments

- Established own business
- Started an online blog
- Passed drivers test

## New Learning Tool

The website **Dictionary.com** has long been useful for anyone interested in looking up a definition or synonym. However, recently they have begun testing a new feature called, "Flashcards".



This tool — still in the Beta phase — allows the user to create online flashcards at different grade levels. Simply select a level and topic and begin. Your progress will be timed and tracked. At the end it will give you a report of how you did.

If you register with the site and create an account, you can create your own cards and track your progress.

You can visit the site at <http://flashcards.dictionary.com>.

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

~ Benjamin Franklin ~

## Reading Plus

Tutors are always looking for new resources to use with their learners and expand their skills. Reading Plus is an online program that allows students to improve their silent reading and integrates writing exercises and vocabulary boosters.

Reading Plus assesses the learner and then assigns an appropriate level that adapts to their reading needs. Furthermore, it continually adjusts its format to meet the learner's changing abilities.

The tutor can log in at any time to read a report of the learner's work and chart his or her progress.

To participate in Reading Plus, learners must make a commitment of their time and be consistent in the work. However, the rewards are great and it is definitely a worthwhile effort.

If you are interested in finding out more about Reading Plus, you can visit their website at [www.readingplus.com](http://www.readingplus.com) and take a virtual tour, or contact the literacy office.



## Send in Your Recipes!

In keeping with the food theme of the Literacy Luncheon guest speaker's most recent novel, the organizing committee is compiling a cookbook of recipes provided by anyone involved with the program: learners, tutors, volunteers.

If you have a favorite recipe that has significance for you, send it in to the literacy office, together with a brief explanation of why it is special.

All submissions must be received by February 15.



## Donations are always welcome

We are grateful for the community support that we receive from local companies, foundations, and organizations, and individuals whose donations have been helping the program continue to serve the literacy needs of our community.

If you have any contacts who might be interested in supporting Literacy Services, please contact the office.

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We are an IRS designated 501(c)(3) #93-1011706

## Snapshot:

### Jason Brady Tutor & Board Member



Last summer, Literacy held one of its Tutor Training sessions, and among the new recruits was Jason Brady. After only 6 months as a tutor, he was approached by the Advisory Board to join and has since become the Board Treasurer.

**Literally Speaking: What made you decide to become a volunteer tutor?**

**Jason:** I wanted to get involved in something that would make a real difference. Helping someone improve their literacy skills has a huge impact in people's lives and is very rewarding.

**Literally Speaking: You recently moved to California. What brought you here?**

**Jason:** To be close to family, especially my elderly parents. I was born and raised in Orange County and moved away fifteen years ago for work. During that time I didn't see my family very often...now that we are older, the time we spend together is very precious. It's a blessing to be close to them again.

**Literally Speaking: Apart from volunteering in literacy, what are your other hobbies?**

**Jason:** Hiking is a real joy, exploring new trails and getting out in the fresh air and sunshine. I also like listening to music, everything from classical to jazz to indie rock. In the future I'd like to travel more, especially to Europe and my ancestral countries of Ireland and Germany. 📷

## SCLLN Literacy Conference

On Saturday, March 5, the Southern California Library Literacy Network will hold its 26th annual one-day conference at the Buena Park Holiday Inn. Tutors, learners and volunteers are encouraged to participate.

The event will feature 21 workshops for learning from various presenters and literacy colleagues. There will be time for networking and sharing ideas with others involved in literacy programs throughout Southern California. The luncheon will feature what promises to be an emotional Writer 2 Writer ceremony.

Call the literacy office to reserve your spot. The Early Bird discounted price is available until February 15.

**Tutors: Thank you for turning in your monthly report by the 3rd of each month!**

Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy  
invites you to the fourth annual

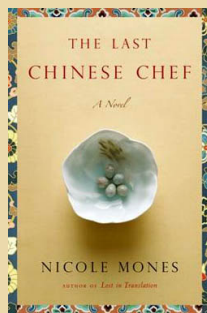
## Gift of Literacy

Literacy Fundraising Luncheon

**April 8, 2011**  
**11:30 am**

Featuring Author  
**Nicole Mones**

Radisson Newport Beach



Books will be available for purchase and signed by the author.

**Ticket prices: \$75 per person; \$100 for Author's Table**

For information and reservations, contact Literacy Services.

## Literally Speaking

*Literally Speaking*, the newsletter of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy at the Newport Beach Public Library, is published bi-monthly and sponsored by corporate and private donations.

### Literacy Advisory Board

Nancy Thompson, *President*  
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## Learner's Corner

### Most Important Thing In My Life

*By Eun Jung Kwon*

Do you like drawing?

When I was a little girl, I liked drawing something natural like waterfalls and trees. So I wanted to be an artist, but my mother didn't like it. I took a piano lesson, and I went to dancing school, but I was not interested in those lessons. I liked listening to music, but I was not good at playing the musical instrument and dancing too. A dramatic performance was a very exciting experience, but I thought it was not my way.

In 1991, at the age of seventeen, I wanted to be a teacher for children. I was a Sunday school assistant teacher for toddlers. I loved kids, and I loved to teach them. One day a little girl, Sat Bel, was very sick. She was hospitalized for a few weeks, because she had pneumonia. When I visited her, a nurse took care of her, but the nurse was not kind at all, and she looked very busy. I couldn't ask anything of them, because everybody was very busy. When a nurse came into the sickroom, every boy and girl was crying. I didn't understand why they were so busy and not kind to patients. I wanted to change that. I wanted to be a kind nurse.

Before I graduated from college for Nursing, I interviewed at a hospital to get a job. In 1997, I worked at a pediatric center. My first week on my job was very hard. I was not accustomed to the hospital system, and I didn't know about co-workers. But a few weeks later, I was familiar with the hospital system and co-workers too. Then I realized how much work a nurse had to do, and that was too much for one nurse. One nurse must take care of over 20 patients. It was too hard. Everybody worked 10 hours a day. I thought it was not good for nurses and patients. I prepared something different for nurse teams, new groups of patients, and small indoor playground for inpatient kids. But it was rejected, because it needed a lot of money and nurses. I just did my best for my patients. It was the only thing I could do for my patients. When I helped them with all my heart, they paid me with a smile, and said, "Thank you."

In 1998, most hospitals had more concern about patient service quality. That time several hospital systems were changed gradually. I was very excited, I was very happy that I could spend more time with my patients.

The most important thing in my life was my marriage. When my boyfriend proposed to me, he decided to study abroad. If I married him, I would be separated from my family, and my friends. I hesitated about this, but I chose him, and left for the United States.

Now I have a lovely son, and a daughter. I can study English with my good tutor, and I have a dream for something in my future. I can't tell what my dream is right now, but I hope I will be able to do it by myself. I want to trust myself, and I don't want to give up. I wonder what kind of important things will happen in my future. 🌸

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## Upcoming Literacy Dates/Events

February 1, 8, 15, 22	Tuesdays, 10:15 am	Discussion Class
February 2	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Movie Talk
February 3, 10, 17, 24	Thursdays, 10:30 am	Life Skills Dialog
February 3, 10, 17	Thursdays, 6:30 pm	Conversation Class
February 7, 28	Mondays, 6:30 pm	small talk, BIG TALK class
February 7, 14, 28	Mondays, 10:30 am	Book Club
February 9, 16	Wednesdays, 5:30 pm	Tutor Training
February 9, 16, 23	Wednesdays, 10:30 am	Pronunciation Workshop
February 11, 25	Fridays, 9:30 am	Advanced Life Skills Dialog
February 18	Friday, 3:30 pm	Families For Literacy Program
February 23	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Learner Network
March 1, 8, 15, 22	Tuesdays, 10:15 am	Discussion Class
March 2	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Movie Talk
March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Thursdays, 10:30 am	Life Skills Dialog
March 5	Saturday, 8:00 am	SCLLN Literacy Conference**
March 7, 21	Mondays, 6:30 pm	small talk, BIG TALK class
March 7, 14, 21, 28	Mondays, 10:30 am	Book Club
March 8	Tuesday, 7:00 pm	Advisory Board Meeting
March 9, 16, 23	Wednesdays, 10:30 am	Pronunciation Workshop
March 10, 17, 24, 31	Thursdays, 6:30 pm	Conversation Class
March 11, 25	Fridays, 9:30 am	Advanced Life Skills Dialog
March 18	Friday, 3:30 pm	Families For Literacy Program

\*\*Held at the Buena Park Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center

**Note:** All programs are held at the Central Library unless otherwise posted and subject to change.  
 For more details, contact the literacy office at (949) 717-3874 or email us at [literacy@newportbeachca.gov](mailto:literacy@newportbeachca.gov)